

# The Sun.

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## The New Secretary of War.

There has been some talk for a day or two past about the "special qualifications" which Mr. ELMER ROOT does or does not possess for the office to which the President has now appointed him. The President has not appointed him to the office of Secretary of War, but to the office of Secretary of the War Department. It is not likely that Mr. ROOT will develop some special qualifications later on. He is a very energetic person, and the best thing about his manliness is that it is regulated by a remarkably well-adjusted instinct.

## The Report of Special Counsel on the Canal Expenditures.

The report of the special counsel appointed by the Governor and the Attorney-General to determine whether any criminal prosecutions ought to be instituted on account of the alleged frauds in the expenditure of the \$9,000,000 appropriation for the improvement of the canals in this State has been made public.

The lawyers to whom this important duty was assigned were Messrs. WALLACE, MACFARLANE and Messrs. G. FOX of this city and Mr. HENRY J. SNOW of Syracuse. Mr. MACFARLANE has been United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and Mr. FOX has been employed in some of the most important criminal and municipal cases which have been tried in this city in recent years. They agree with Mr. SNOW that the evidence laid before them is not sufficient to warrant the indictment of any person. At the same time they do not want to understand as expressing the opinion that the officers concerned in the expenditure of the canal appropriation have done their duty. The substance of the special counsel's conclusion is that the case is one for grave suspicion, but lacks the proof necessary to secure conviction in reference to all matters not already barred by the statute of limitations.

The standing of the lawyers who unite this report is such that the idea of prosecuting any one criminally in connection with the canal improvement will probably now be abandoned.

## The Royal Niger Company.

The purchase by the British Government of all the administrative rights and powers of the Royal Niger Company brings to a close a very brilliant and typical chapter in the history of British expansion. In 1877, when the idea of making Nigeria British was first conceived, there was no foreigner, whether trader, soldier, missionary or traveler, in the whole basin of the Niger and Lake Chad between the French colony of Senegal on the extreme west and the valley of the Nile on the extreme east, or between the seaboard colonies on the Gulf of Guinea to the south and the Algerian and Tunisian frontiers to the north. In the early eighties a company of English traders was formed to develop this immense district, of which little was known except its unhealthiness. The company started with a paid-up capital of \$2,500,000 as a private venture unsupported by Government backing of any kind. In 1890, when three annual dividends of six per cent had proved its stability, Mr. GLADSTONE's short-lived Ministry granted it a royal charter, with the right to conclude treaties with native chiefs and levy customs duties to cover the expenses of government.

From that time the company has been engaged on the dual duties of trade and administration. Starting with nothing but a few small trading stations, it gradually extended its protectorate over half a million square miles of territory, containing an estimated population of 30,000,000. It built up and equipped an army of 1,000 men at its own expense. It overcame the opposition of the warlike tribes which surrounded it. It conquered the Emir of Nupe and the Sultan of Iorin, and wherever its hand stretched slavery was put down and the sale of liquors prohibited. Nor were the natives the only source of difficulties. The French Government, and later on the German Government, made persistent efforts to forestall the company's advance and seize the Niger for themselves. These efforts were frustrated, not by Downing Street, which showed little interest in the matter, but by the handful of civilians who directed the company's affairs, and particularly by their chief and Governor, Sir GEORGE GOLDIE. It is due to him that the British West African empire is now a firmly established reality, that the French advance across the Sudan has been finally checked and that the Niger is thrown open to the world's trade instead of being the exclusive preserve of a single nation.

In characteristic contrast to this record of private enterprise is the withering array of those neighboring colonies that have always been under the direct control of the Foreign or Colonial Office. In Gambia, Sierra Leone, Lagos and the Gold Coast England was possessed of starting points from which she might have spread over the whole of West Africa. But official ignorance or indifference allowed each of these colonies to be strangled withered by neglect. The French, with Senegal as their basis, raided the interior, cutting off the British hinterlands and confining their settlements to the seacoast. It was not until they had pushed their way to the Niger and occupied Bousa and Nikki, in the spring of 1897, that the French empire builders met with any real opposition, and then it was from the Royal Niger Company that the opposition came in the first place. It was the gravity of the situation that

arose out of this incident that first convinced the British Government that the time had come when the company's charter should be revoked and its administrative work placed in official hands. It was rightly felt that the servants of a trading company were not the proper men to be entrusted with delicate international negotiations, the issue of which might mean war. The British Government has therefore paid the company the compliment of considering the interests it has created of sufficient moment to warrant imperial direction. From now onward the company as an administrative agent ceases to exist. Its powers and privileges, its land and mineral rights, together with all its war supplies, are turned over to the Government for the sum of \$4,325,000, and the company returns to its original status of a trading concern, interested in indigo, tobacco, banking and lumber, but without any official or semi-official authority.

The districts over which it has ruled with such singular success are now placed under the control of the colonial office. The Government will abolish all inland frontiers and enforce a common law and a common tariff. It is more than probable that the first Governor of the newly created colony will be Sir GEORGE GOLDIE, the retiring director of the Niger Company and the man to whom above all others its prosperity and expansion are due. Sir GEORGE's retirement from the office has held for thirteen years is dictated by the same motives which sent Gen. LEONARD WOOD back to Santiago. "Probably," he said, "my name will soon be forgotten in connection with Nigeria, and to this I am indifferent; but if it is remembered it shall not be as the Chairman of a Nigerian financial company which, however useful and however important, will necessarily exist for purposes of profit alone."

## The University of the Proletariat.

The twenty-ninth annual report of the Directors of City Trusts of Philadelphia sets forth in an appendix the statements rendered on Jan. 1 of the current year by the authorities of Girard College. The extent and the kind of educational work performed by this unique institution are perfectly comprehended outside of the city and State to which its usefulness is, practically, confined. The efficiency and progress of Girard College deserve, however, general attention by reason of the special which its four hundred and thirty-two pupils have been lost of. Although, in respect of the buildings in which it is lodged, and the funds at its disposal, this establishment may be compared with almost any seat of learning in the world, it does not undertake to fit young men for any of the so-called liberal professions, or even to prepare them to enter colleges proper or professional schools, but limits itself to the task of qualifying them for success in one or another industrial calling. If the institution were situated in Europe, Girard College would be described as the university of the proletariat.

When STEPHEN GIRARD died on Dec. 26, 1831, he was reputed to be, next to JOHN JACOB ASTOR, the richest man in the United States. The value of his estate was overestimated, but it probably amounted to between seven and seven million dollars. He left by will to the city of Philadelphia the Girard College buildings were erected, and the sum of two million dollars for building purposes. To the maintenance of the institution was devoted the entire residue of the estate, a residue computed at the time to be worth three and a quarter million dollars. Much of the property was lost to the fund, including some very valuable coal lands, but, in spite of all losses and depreciations, the fund has increased to over twenty million dollars, exclusive of the college grounds and buildings. The income, when the fund was received by the city of Philadelphia, amounted to between sixty and seventy thousand dollars per annum. By 1848, when the buildings were completed and the institution was opened, the annual income had increased to \$1,000,000. It is now about a million dollars. Few of the colleges have been made for expenses of collection and for repairs on real estate.

The number of pupils originally contemplated was 300. The number now lodged and taught is 1,538. In fifty years the number of buildings has increased from five to nineteen. The staff of instructors includes, besides a President, a Vice-President and a Librarian, sixteen male professors; there are also thirty-eight female teachers, to whose charge, for the most part, the younger boys are committed. In the so-called mechanical school, which is an adjunct to the theoretical institution, there are seven male teachers, besides the superintendent. We should mention that the pupils are distributed in four forms or classes, the fourth form being the highest. Boys are admitted, under conditions to be presently mentioned, between the ages of 6 and 10, and are discharged at the age of 18 unless employment has been previously secured for them.

The conditions of admission and the scope of the instruction to be given are carefully defined in GIRARD'S will, and no material departure has been made from its provisions. The college was founded to receive "as many poor white male orphans (the word orphan has been construed in Pennsylvania to mean fatherless child) between the age of 6 and 10 years as the income shall be adequate to maintain." The will further declares "that those scholars that shall merit it shall remain in the college until they shall respectively arrive at between 14 and 18 years of age; they shall then be bound out by the Mayor, Aldermen or citizens of Philadelphia, to suitable employment, to suitable occupations, or to the locality from which the beneficiaries are to be drawn, the rule laid down that, whenever there are more applicants than vacancies, a preference shall be given, 'first, to orphans born in the city of Philadelphia (construed to mean the old city, with the limits which existed at GIRARD'S death); secondly, to those born in any other part of Pennsylvania; thirdly, to those born in the city of New York (that being the first port on the continent of North America at which I arrived); and, lastly, to those born in the city of New Orleans (being the first port on the said continent at which I landed)."

The will goes on to recite that the orphans admitted into the college shall be fed with plain but wholesome food, clothed with plain but decent and moderate dresses (not to be worn and lodged in a plain but safe manner. Due regard shall be paid to their health, and, to this end, their persons and clothes shall be kept clean, and they shall have suitable and rational exercise and recreation." The words which we have italicized seem to justify the erection of a gymnasium. They have been already construed to authorize military drill.

As regards the range of teaching, GIRARD directs that "they shall be instructed

the various branches of a sound education, comprehending reading, writing, grammar, arithmetic, geography, navigation, surveying, practical mathematics, astronomy, natural, experimental and chemical philosophy, the French and Spanish languages (if not for all, but for some of the scholars), the Greek and Latin languages, and such other learning and science as the capacities of the several scholars may merit or warrant. I would have them taught facts and things rather than words or signs."

It is, in other words, an industrial, rather than a literary education, which the founder of the college had in view, and, from this primary purpose, the managers did not diverge when they added to the college proper the so-called Mechanical School, with its seven departments, comprising mechanical drawing, carpentry, metal working, blacksmithing, foundry work, plumbing and electrical mechanics. The last-named department is equipped with all the latest apparatus and appliances, including the model of a trolley system complete to the minutest detail. In pursuance of the founder's wish, Spanish as well as French has always been taught in the college, but since the beginning of the late war special attention has been given to the former language.

There is one paragraph of GIRARD'S will the intent of which is sometimes misunderstood because it is quoted without the context. We refer to the provision: "I join and require that no ecclesiastical, missionary or minister of any sect whatsoever shall ever hold or exercise any station or duty whatsoever in the said college, nor shall any such person be admitted for any purpose or as a visitor within the premises appropriated to the purposes of the said college." The testator himself goes on to say that, in making this restriction, he does not mean to cast any reflection upon any sect or person whatsoever; but, "as there is such a multitude of sects and such a diversity of opinion among them, I desire to keep the tender minds of the orphans who are to derive advantage from this bequest free from the excitement which clashing doctrines and sectarian controversies are so apt to produce."

GIRARD'S principal wish, he says, was this, that all the instructors and teachers in the college should take pains to instill into the minds of the pupils of the college the purest principles of morality, "so that on their entrance into active life they may, from inclination and habit, evince benevolence toward their fellow creatures and a love of truth, sobriety and industry, adopting, at the same time, such religious tenets as their matured reason may enable them to prefer."

The number of pupils admitted since the opening of the college is 4,157. The number at present enrolled is, as we have said, 1,538. The number admitted in 1898 was 258. From the list of occupations given in the Superintendent's report, it appears that only one of the graduates is studying in a college, only one in a divinity school, one in a law school and one in a medical school.

With these four exceptions, all are engaged in industry or trade. The figures prove that the managers fulfill the capital purpose of the institution, which is to qualify boys to earn their living immediately upon their entrance into active life.

## The Experiments at Sandy Hook.

The recent experiments at Sandy Hook revive the hope that before long we may avail ourselves of high explosives as the bursting charges of shells both in heavy guns and field-pieces. When we find 113 pounds of explosive gelatine, a compound more powerful than the best dynamite, safely fired from an ordinary 12-inch rifle, with the regular service charge of brown powder, it is plain that great progress has been made. Of course, the test of the Ithaca dynamite shell, from which the 108-pound projectile was fired, the other day, will not be complete until it is also made against an armor plate representing the thickness of a battleship's armor.

The experiments at Sandy Hook were not, however, confined to the use of the Ithaca dynamite shell. A 12-inch shell was fired through a 45-degree steel plate without bursting. This new explosive had been previously rubbed between blocks covered with sandpaper, hammered on an anvil, and pierced with a red-hot iron, without exploding. Finally, the Sims-Dudley gun, which represents a system tested for fieldpieces in actual warfare in Cuba, once more achieved success with its shell charges of a powerful explosive.

One point of interest in this group of tests was that it included all the leading lines of experiment with high explosives for shells. Hitherto our own country had expended most of its energy in substituting for gunpowder a less dangerous propulsive force, namely, that of compressed air, and has led all countries in this direction. The pneumatic gun invented by MEYERD and greatly improved and made practical by ZALUSKI has passed through the actual test of war as a naval weapon on the Vesuvius at Santiago, while as a land gun it forms an important part of the defenses of New York, Boston and San Francisco. But while this gun, or aerial torpedo tube, as it has sometimes been called, is tremendous within its range, throwing masses of gunpowder or other high explosives practically limited only by the size of the shell, that range is too short for many purposes, and also requires a high angle fire. Hence, for long ranges it is desirable to find a system of using high explosives in the shells of ordinary powder guns with the regular service charges.

Two systems have been chiefly resorted to for this purpose, one being some modification of the shell and the firing apparatus so that the high explosive may not be prematurely exploded in the bore of the gun by the shock of the charge. Various ingenious devices of this sort have been invented. The English, for example, years ago experimented with the Snyder shell, while in this country Dr. JUSTIN'S projectile also long attracted attention and official experiment. More recently we have had the Gathmann shell, of which great things are hoped by its inventors, and now we have the Isham shell, which is performed so well last week, and in which the interior is divided into small compartments, for packing the explosive gelatine.

But wholly distinct from these special devices in constructing the shell and the chamber, or for furnishing buffers against the shock of the discharge, is the system of making the bursting charges of such compounds as cannot possibly be exploded either by shock in the bore or even on im-

port against the target. The value of these preparations is that they allow the projectile to pierce armor and then to be exploded by a detonator on the other side. It is in this direction, probably, that the most widespread experiments have been made. For example, has for years had her malleable English, her lydite, which resembles the other compound; Austria her coratite and Sweden her bellite, while roburite, helodite and other compounds have also been used as the bursting charges of shells, and wet gunpowder is used in many parts of the world as well as here. Our own country has developed several such promising compounds, which cannot be exploded on impact, eminently being perhaps specially worthy of mention, while of late lyodite and now thorite are attracting official attention.

It should be kept in mind that the ballistic test is not the only one to be applied in such cases. Of the highest importance are the keeping properties of the explosive, which will enable it to remain in form under climatic conditions. This has been the difficult element in various otherwise promising substances. Still, there is ground for belief that high explosives will before long be in regular use in the shells of our ordinary powder guns.

## An Unreasonable Dispute.

The deplorable controversy which has arisen, during a midsummer otherwise propitious for the sale of all cooling beverages, as to the date and place of origin of the Gin Rickey, is a decided menace to the popularity of all American mixed drinks. It is unnecessary to explain that the Rickey is a combination of Holland gin, cracked ice and seltzer. One disputant alleges that it had its origin at the St. James Hotel, and the invention of the sewing machine, was an accident or something very much like an accident. Another disputant, professing a desire to set at rest a controversy which, he says, has late been going the rounds of the New York papers, alleges, with many such details as give verisimilitude, that the first Rickey was made at SHOOTMAKER'S in Washington not less than sixteen years ago, and that the notable occasion is still recalled as if it were but yesterday by those fortunate enough to be present at the time.

It is a matter of comparatively little importance where or when the Rickey originated, whether in the metropolis of the United States or in the national capital. The statesmanlike fact of the Rickey, which, to so great an extent, has been his share in this delectable, would be precisely as secure if had originated in Jefferson City, Joplin or Sedalia, as in Washington or New York.

It is, however, a fact that the Gin Rickey, when subjected to the crucial analysis of experts, is found to be merely a democratic variation of a formerly popular mixed drink, the Gin Daisy, from the libation of which has proceeded the expression "Gin Daisy" as is credibly averred. The Gin Daisy had for its structural basis three dashes of orange and three of maraschino, to which were added the juice of half a small lemon, a wine glass of Holland gin, the "trimmings," as they are called, the innocuous addition, being a third of a glass of shaved ice and seltzer or apollinaris. The Rickey differs from the Daisy in not being bitter-sweet, owing to the circumstance that it possesses no combination of orange and lemon. It is bitter only, its foundation being of lime, from the healthful and wholesome qualities of which the Rickey of the Missouri Colonel derives much of its enduring popularity.

But how long is this popularity to continue if ill-divided persons persist in maintaining this unwarmed dispute as to its origin, in midsummer? Do they not perceive that it is practically an assault on all American mixed drinks, the Virginia Mint Julep, the Gin Sour, the Whiskey Smash, the Sherry Cobbler, the Tonic Collins, the Gin and Tonic, the Brandy Smash, the Stone Fence, the Sherry Flip and even the Port Wine Sangaree? Already mischievous inclusions are insinuating under cover of this unfortunate dispute, and the details of time and place, that veritable Rickey-killers, which, without gun, while other ignorant or malicious individuals are professing to believe that lemon may be substituted for lime without injury to the Rickey. Let all such heed this admonition: American mixed drinks are now recovering from a partial eclipse in popularity, and their restoration to former favor will certainly be retarded, if the attention of enthusiasts is to be directed to mere questions of chronology and locality.

## Saving New England.

It is painful to have to know that the Hon. GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS feels himself unequal to the job of saving New England and upholding in sixteen folds of silver foil the honor of the State of New England. He saved Vermont, but his exiled son, Humphrey, marched through Maine at the head of his triumphant parade of votes, and still resolutely enough of himself to fulfill all his contracts in Massachusetts, overlooking Rhode Island and give words of comfort to the Hon. ALEX. THORP and such other Connecticut Democrats, if any, as were not comprised in ALEXANDER.

Mr. WILLIAMS is not weary of well-doing, but he deplores any tendency toward monopoly discoverable even in himself. He consents to permit the rest of the country, so far as there is any, to come in and help make New England worthy of the silver crown. Last week, so rich in impressive events, the New England Bimetall League was formed in Chicago. A bimetallist will be held in some convenient place, possibly in Dedham, Mr. WILLIAMS expects, and there will be such an assemblage of eloquence and statesmanship as is not permitted elsewhere, save at a Democratic National Convention or a meeting of the Ohio Valley Bimetall League. The whole strength of the company, from ALLEN and ALSTED, BRYAN and BLACKBURN, to COIN HARVEY and TRILMAN will be played. It will be a splendid, an affecting scene.

But if New England declines to be saved by the immortal WILLIAMS, nothing domestic or imported can save her. She is joined to her idols, and especially that good old image, the Golden Calf.

An urgent demand exists for the issue by the United States Treasury of gold certificates against deposits of silver coins, to be used as currency in place of the coin itself as more convenient and less cumbersome, but compliance with it is refused by Secretary GAGE for reasons which he has, until lately, kept to himself. To an Evening Post correspondent, however, he said yesterday:

"With all the greenbacks and silver certificates and United States notes outstanding in the Government's name, I question the wisdom of a further expansion of the paper currency by the addition of a mass of gold certificates, which would compete with the silver already existing."

It is true that the denominations of the gold certificates being \$20, less than \$20, would naturally present

their becoming an important competitor in exchange, they relate to the ordinary retail trade of the country, but on the other hand, they would be no special benefit in adding them, for if the circulation should ever become redundant, and contraction should follow, the tendency of legal-tender notes and gold certificates to be hoarded would be counteracted by the circulation of gold certificates."

If the Secretary says, the market already sufficiently supplied, nobody will call for the certificates and he will not have to issue any. If, on the contrary, as a good many people say, he knows that the market is not so well supplied, he takes the place of so much gold coin, which is already a part of the circulation, and they will not add one dollar to the total volume. What the Secretary means by the argument that the same people who are now urging him to take gold out of the market will call for the certificates and he will not have to issue any. If, on the contrary, as a good many people say, he knows that the market is not so well supplied, he takes the place of so much gold coin, which is already a part of the circulation, and they will not add one dollar to the total volume. What the Secretary means by the argument that the same people who are now urging him to take gold out of the market will call for the certificates and he will not have to issue any. 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